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# Human rights and cultural diversity

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/167, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. In the light of that resolution, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights invited States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to submit written comments. The present report provides a summary of the answers received. The comments received from Governments tend to focus on measures taken within the State to promote cultural diversity and tolerance. A few recommendations were made for increasing the scope of resolution 60/167 at the international level. One suggestion was made regarding possible action by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The report also provides an update on the consultation that took place on the particularities and scope of the mandate of an independent expert on the promotion and the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities that was organized in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/20.

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# I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/167, in paragraph 14 of which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) invited States, United Nations and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, as well as the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights,[1] to submit their considerations on the subject.

2. As of 30 July 2007, 17 replies had been received, mainly from Member States. The comments of States, UNICEF and the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights are summarized below.

# II. Summary of information received from Governments and non-governmental organizations

### Albania

3. In its written reply of 6 June 2007, the Government of Albania refers to articles 18 and 20 of the national Constitution, which affirm the equality of all before the law, state that no one shall be discriminated against and proclaim the freedom of expression of members of minority groups. Reference is also made to the main objectives of the Ministry of Education and Science, which are to promote cultural diversity by increasing the role of education in preserving cultural diversity, promoting tolerance and establishing a communication network in the country and between countries of the Balkans to exchange best practices. The Government of Albania also stresses that school programmes on tolerance and cultural diversity have been established and that the training of teachers and other school workers includes programmes on cultural diversity. Furthermore, school books are permanently being reviewed to eliminate those parts which may contain prejudice, insults and incitement of hatred and intolerance.

### Azerbaijan

4. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan in its written reply of 28 June 2007 states that Azerbaijan is a multi-ethnic and multilingual country. Azerbaijan has always had great respect and understanding for the traditions and customs, cultures and languages of ethnic minorities and other peoples. The 1995 Constitution is the principal legislative base for implementing the Government's policy for the protection of the human rights of all citizens, including members of national minorities and ethnic groups. The rights of national minorities and ethnic groups are further safeguarded in the 1992 presidential decree on the protection of rights and freedoms, which provides for State support for the languages and culture

[1] A network of observers, institutes and non-governmental organizations working in partnership with the International Organization of la Francophonie and UNESCO.

of national minorities and ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan. All ethnic minorities living in Azerbaijan have their own cultural centres and social organizations. Newspapers, magazines, State radio and local television broadcasts are available in the languages of ethnic minorities. Ethnic minorities are also provided with all the necessary conditions to observe their religious traditions. Mosques, churches and synagogues operate in Azerbaijan and representatives of ethnic minorities have an opportunity to receive religious education.

5. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is implementing a policy to promote mutual understanding and friendly relations among peoples and ethnic groups living in the country and is making efforts to preserve and develop the cultural property of national minorities and ethnic groups. Activities carried out include: collaboration with embassies and missions of countries that are the historic homelands of ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan; cooperation with cultural centres and societies currently representing numerically small peoples; the holding of international conferences and national round tables devoted to the rights of cultural minorities; and organizing cultural events and artistic performances. Furthermore, the Education Act guarantees citizens the right to education, regardless of their race, language and ethnic or religious affiliation. Citizens are free to choose the form of their education, the establishment and the language of instruction. The Ministry of Education offers opportunities to provide instruction on the languages, history and culture of ethnic minorities. Bearing in mind that tolerance for cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic differences is a necessary condition for mutual understanding among individuals and representatives of different cultures, textbooks and study materials published for general education schools contain materials on the observance of human rights and respect for and preservation of the cultural heritage of all ethnic groups living in the Republic.

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

6. In its written reply of 18 July 2007, the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina underlines that Bosnia and Herzegovina is a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multireligious society with four monotheistic religions, three constituent peoples, the Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats, and 17 national minorities.[2] This wide variety of cultural heritage is to be considered as a national treasure of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the State advocates for respect of parliamentary democracy and mutual dialogue as a means of embracing diversity and developing tolerance in the society. This is enshrined in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, language, religion, opinion and origin. It is also enshrined in legislation such as the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which creates an obligation for entities, cantons, municipalities and towns in Bosnia and Herzegovina to regulate more comprehensively in their own regulations rights and obligations stemming from this law, and the 2003 Law on Freedom of Religion and the Legal Status of Churches and Religious Communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Several bodies have been established, including the Interreligious Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which aims at preventing discrimination on religious grounds and promoting freedom of religion, and the Roma Committee, which promotes tolerance and respect for diversity. Preparations for the creation of

[2] According to the latest census, carried out in 1991.

the National Minority Council as an advisory body to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina are under way. Additionally, the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman for Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to establish a department for the rights of ethnic, religious and other minorities. The Government regrets that during the 1992-1995 conflict numerous cultural and religious buildings were destroyed. Since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, efforts have been made to rebuild some monuments, as their preservation is of international significance. A number of articles of the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina deal with the protection of cultural, historical and religious monuments and the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, created under the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been entrusted with promoting international cooperation to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the country.

**Costa Rica**

7. The Government of Costa Rica underlines the ethnic diversity prevailing in the country, referring to eight national or ethnic minorities including the Cabécares, Bribris, Ngöbe, Térrabas, Borucas or Brunkas, Malekus and Chorotegas, as well as other minority groups including people of African descent, the Chinese and immigrants from Nicaragua, Panama, the United States of America and Colombia. Every year, on 12 October, the country celebrates the Day of Ethnic and Linguistic Diversity and various activities are organized to that end. National law No. 7711 on the elimination of racial discrimination in programmes of education and the mass media establishes that educational programmes and plans should eliminate references to segregation and give space to the teaching of curricula on existing ethnic groups and cultures in Costa Rica. The Department of Indigenous Education was established 11 years ago to focus specifically on the educational process of national indigenous communities; 224 indigenous education centres have been created and the teaching of indigenous languages is available in 170 schools. Efforts have been made to increase the budget covering the educational needs of migrant students and 19,057 young migrants, mainly from Nicaragua, benefited from vocational training courses during the period 2002-2005. Law No. 7711 further states that public messages relating to race, colour, religion and belief should observe the principles of respect, dignity and equality of all human beings.

8. Furthermore, the Government of Costa Rica refers to ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, ratified by Costa Rica in 1992 and to a draft law on autonomous development of indigenous peoples, which is the outcome of a major consultative process carried out with indigenous communities. Other projects on communications and the media have been carried out, including a programme developed with the assistance of UNESCO to reinforce the use of the Internet in indigenous communities and the broadcasting of programmes on the radio and public television on specific themes relating to indigenous peoples.

**Croatia**

9. In its written reply of 6 July 2007, the Government of Croatia states that it sees the issue of intercultural dialogue largely as an issue of integration and creating equal opportunities for existing minorities. Croatia is a culturally diversified country with 22 national minorities, representing 7.5 per cent of the total population, the

Roma being the most socially marginalized group. The Rights of National Minorities were considerably improved after the adoption in 2002 of the Constitutional Law on the Rights of National Minorities. Under this legislation, members of a minority group have the right to use and receive education in their own language and script, express their own culture, preserve and protect their cultural heritage and traditions, confess their own religion and self-organize and unite for the realization of common interests. Equally important are the Law on Education in the Languages and Script of National Minorities and the Law on the Use of the Languages and Script of National Minorities. Since minorities create bridges between nations and States, the Government will continue to foster cooperation with the countries of origin of the minorities.

10. The Government has publicly highlighted the benefits of cultural diversity, most importantly in its Law on the Adoption of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions ratified in 2006. Government policies are consistent with the aims and conceptual framework of the Council of Europe Opatija Declaration on Intercultural Dialogue and Conflict Prevention, adopted in 2003. Furthermore, Croatia has joined the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 initiated by the Open Society Institute and the World Bank. In line with this, the Government has adopted the Action Plan for the Decade of Roma Inclusion, which provides for measures to eradicate a long tradition of discrimination and marginalization of the Roma.

11. The Government has also adopted a number of measures to promote cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, including in educational programmes. Since 2006, modules on "intercultural competencies and managing conflicts" and "cultural differences and collective rights" have been taught at the University of Zagreb. A number of programmes which promote the principles of tolerance, respect for cultural diversities and intercultural dialogue have been introduced in the Croatian radio and progress has been made in sanctioning hate speech and stereotyped ways of presenting the minorities in the media discourse.

12. To promote interreligious dialogue, the Government has signed agreements on issues of common interest with nine minority faith groups and is currently preparing a draft agreement with the Jewish community. In 2006, Croatia hosted the second Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Tolerance Implementation Meeting on education to promote mutual respect and understanding and learning about the Holocaust, as well as an international conference "Dialogue in today's world", involving various religious communities and focusing on interreligious dialogue.

**Cuba**

13. In its written reply of 6 July 2007, the Government of Cuba stresses that far from weakening the universal values of human civilization, diversity is a main factor of strength and prosperity. Cultural homogeneity is endangering genuine artistic expression, accelerates the risk of cultural identities disappearing and constitutes a serious threat to the realization of cultural rights. Lack of respect of cultural diversity, discrimination, racism and xenophobia have been the main causes of conflicts throughout history. Priority should be given to the preservation of the memory and history of peoples, which will contribute to safeguarding indigenous cultural expressions and cultural diversity. States therefore have a responsibility to

promote the full enjoyment of cultural rights for everyone and respect for diverse cultural identities. International cooperation is a key element for the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural rights are an integral part of human rights and therefore are universal, indivisible and interdependent.

14. The Government of Cuba reiterates its commitment to continue supporting the preservation and promotion of the cultural identities and cultural diversity of all peoples and nations. In that respect, in 2007, the Government submitted instruments of ratification of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

**Cyprus**

15. In its written reply of 16 July 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus underlines that the Republic has consistently pursued a policy of promotion and protection of cultural diversity since its establishment in 1960, through its membership of UNESCO, the International Organization of la Francophonie and other regional organizations and its participation in a large number of international legal instruments on the protection and promotion of human rights pertaining to culture. The Government ratified the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and welcomes its entry into force as an important step in the protection and promotion of cultural diversity, reinforcing links between culture and sustainable development.

**Ecuador**

16. The Government of Ecuador in its written answer of 28 June 2007 underlines that tolerance, dialogue and exchange between cultures facilitate mutual understanding. The strengthening of political, social, economic and legal institutions is vital to ensure multicultural participation in an equal and respectful way and to avoid the marginalization, exclusion and discrimination of some sectors of the population. In order to fulfil this goal, Ecuador considers it essential that an international order based on justice, equity and equality is established to guarantee the respect of human dignity.

**Greece**

17. In the context of its general policy to fight social exclusion and racism, the Government of Greece, in its written reply of 27 June 2007, stresses that, since 1999, the Ministry of Culture has been coordinating and implementing special intercultural programmes promoting cultural expressions of Roma and migrant communities in order to integrate these communities into modern Greek cultural and social reality. To attain the aforementioned objective, in 2003 the Government established the Office for Intercultural Issues, later renamed the Department of Intercultural Issues. With the ratification of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, the Modern Cultural Heritage Directorate of the Ministry of Culture is authorized to assume responsibilities and take action for the protection and promotion of cultural diversity. The ratification of the Convention reaffirms the importance of cultural diversity, which is considered a national priority. Moreover, the European Commission has proclaimed 2008 the Year of Intercultural Dialogue. The Government considers that these developments

represent an opportunity to engage in a long-term, consistent, structured and dynamic policy to consolidate the intercultural dialogue in Greek society.

**Iraq**

18. The Government of Iraq, in its written reply of 11 June 2007, underlines that the term "cultural diversity" needs to be clearly defined and that it is necessary to distinguish between cultural diversity as such and cultural diversity as it relates to religion, since religion has fixed features that cannot be ignored or modified depending on the cultural level of the individual or society. The Government further states that the 1966 UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity regards culture as a real bridge and an expression of convergence between peoples in pursuing human interaction for a free and decent life for the peoples of all nations. Furthermore, it stresses that the issue of cultural diversity of the various ethnic and religious groupings present in Iraq needs greater attention through the dissemination of cultural information relating to all groupings in order to give a correct picture of the components that make up the culture of Iraq. The Government's efforts focus on increasing public awareness through the media in order to achieve intellectual and cultural convergence between the diverse members of the Iraqi population.

**Japan**

19. In its written reply of 30 May 2007, the Government of Japan refers to a seminar that took place on the theme "Dialogue among civilizations" that was co-sponsored by the Foreign Ministries of Japan and Bahrain. Intellectuals from Japan and Islamic countries, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen and the League of Arab States participated in this seminar, which aimed at promoting mutual understanding and expanding networks among intellectuals from these countries. The seminar was organized in the framework of the "Dialogue among civilizations with the world of Islam", which was announced by the then Foreign Minister during his visit to Gulf countries in 2001.

**Lebanon**

20. The Government of Lebanon indicates in its written reply of 20 June 2007 that it is committed to the Charter of the United Nations and the Bill of Human Rights in all their aspects, including cultural diversity, through the preamble to the Lebanese Constitution. Lebanon is founded on the coexistence of more than 18 faith-based groups and the Constitution guarantees their right to maintain their own beliefs, culture, freedom of worship, freedom of opinion and association, freedom of education and freedom to build their own schools and universities. Furthermore, foreign nationals living in Lebanon enjoy their religious and cultural rights without discrimination. The Government sees the diversity of Lebanese society as an enriching element which promotes its openness towards other States within the region and in the world, and expresses its full commitment to General Assembly resolution 60/167.

**Mexico**

21. In its written reply of 18 July 2007, the Government of Mexico stresses that Mexico is a multicultural State, which fully recognizes and promotes cultural diversity at the national and international level. The Constitution recognizes the cultural diversity of the nation, initially based on the existence of indigenous peoples, and also guarantees the right of the indigenous communities to self-determination and, as a consequence, the autonomy to preserve their languages, knowledge and any other elements constitutive of their cultural identity. The Constitution also proclaims the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Mexico considers it crucial that legislative, administrative and educational measures be taken to promote cultural diversity and build societies based on tolerance and respect for pluralism and intercultural dialogue. Several initiatives have been put in place to that end including the establishment of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, which evaluates government programmes and actions for indigenous communities, the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination (CONAPRED), which presented in 2006 a National Programme for the Prevention and Elimination of Discrimination. Many other activities aimed at promoting diversity, equality of opportunity and tolerance have been organized nationally, including various workshops to raise awareness on the issue of discrimination in Mexico, programmes to support individual and collective initiatives to safeguard and strengthen the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples in Mexico, as well as cultural events, radio broadcasts and publications. The National Campaign for Cultural Diversity was launched in May 2007 to facilitate intercultural dialogue and promote cultural diversity. At the international level, Mexico has participated in and organized several meetings around the drafting of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and therefore has played a pivotal role in its adoption by the Human Rights Council.

**Paraguay**

22. The Government of Paraguay, in its written reply of 29 June 2007, provided a document from the Ministry of Education and Culture on a strategic planning process focusing on human rights education in the National Plan of Education. The Government declares that there is no national plan of education on human rights yet. However, the elaboration and implementation of the National Plan of Education, "Plan Ñanduti", takes into account, within its main lines of action, education for the protection and promotion of human rights.

**Syrian Arab Republic**

23. In its written reply of 20 July 2007, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic recalls that the Syrian Arab Republic joined the list of countries which adopted General Assembly resolution 60/167. The Government states that the Syrian Arab Republic recognizes, appreciates and respects all cultures and the richness they bring through their diversity. It invites the international community to recognize that the promotion of culture, tolerance and dialogue between diverse cultures and civilizations will help to enrich their culture and customs and allow them to benefit from the sharing of scientific, intellectual, moral and material achievements. The Government also underlines that it is contemplating acceding to the UNESCO International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Furthermore, the Ministry of Culture is working to highlight

the cultural diversity that exists in the Syrian Arab Republic and is in the process of recording the non-material heritage of all the groups and minorities that make up the Syrian people. Lastly, the Government acknowledges the pivotal role of the United Nations in implementing the resolution, especially paragraph 1 and paragraphs 6 to 11 thereof.

**United Nations Children's Fund**

24. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in its written reply of 25 July 2007, reports that its approach to human rights and cultural diversity is guided by its mission statement, the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the outcome document "A world fit for children" of the special session of the General Assembly on children, held in May 2002, and the UNICEF Medium-Term Strategic Plan for 2006-2009. These documents recognize the importance of cultural diversity within a human rights framework as both an end in itself and a means to prevent discrimination and violence and promote the child's fullest development. The UNICEF approach requires respect for traditions that promote the best interests of the child and sees them as regularly proving essential for the fulfilment of children's rights. UNICEF further details the ways in which the Convention on the Rights of the Child addresses cultural diversity: non-discrimination is one of the overarching principles of the Convention; it also refers to the right of the child to have his or her own culture preserved, to express his or her culture, participate in cultural life, to know other cultures and to be protected from harmful cultural practices. With the adoption of the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly on children "A world fit for children", States committed themselves to take action to eliminate discrimination against children, address exclusion and ensure equal access to services for indigenous children and children belonging to minorities. The outcome document further emphasizes that education should respect the cultural heritage of indigenous children and children belonging to minorities. It also mentions the need to put an end to harmful traditional or customary practices, such as early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. Lastly, UNICEF describes a number of initiatives aimed at promoting cultural diversity, peace and tolerance that it has undertaken in line with General Assembly resolution 60/167 at the global, regional and country levels.

**Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights**

25. In its written reply of 3 July 2007, the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights points out that the 2001 UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity established a link between cultural diversity and cultural rights, whereas the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions states that cultural diversity can be protected and promoted only if human rights and fundamental freedoms are guaranteed.

26. According to the Observatory, cultural diversity is not an objective in itself. At the same time, cultural diversity constitutes a resource that should be protected. The right of every person to access to cultural resources should be secured in the same way as, for instance, access to food. Cultural diversity and cultural rights are interdependent and should be understood on the basis of a principle of mutual protection, whereby one is necessary for the protection of the other. Cultural diversity is necessary for the exercise of cultural rights.

27. The Observatory believes that it is essential to demonstrate the importance of cultural rights in order to better identify the root causes of violence and poverty, and potential areas of prevention. It has therefore been involved in the drafting of a declaration on cultural rights, which was adopted by members of civil society in May 2007 and subsequently presented to the United Nations Office at Geneva. This declaration, which is provided as an annex to the Observatory's written reply,[3] was drafted by the Fribourg Group, an international group of experts,[4] and is supported by approximately 60 experts, including experts from the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and foundations. On the basis of the Declaration, the Observatory has embarked on a programme aimed at observing cultural rights and cultural diversity.

28. Based on the recommendations made in October 2005 during a one-day informal consultation on cultural rights, the Observatory has also carried out a systematic analysis of references made to cultural rights in reports of special rapporteurs, independent experts and working groups of the United Nations.[5]

## III. Update on Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/20

29. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2005/20, requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the particularities and scope of the mandate of an independent expert on the promotion of the enjoyment of cultural rights of everyone and respect for different cultural identities.

30. Pursuant to this resolution, in July 2005 the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) invited States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to transmit their comments. A few replies were received and OHCHR decided to organize, in collaboration with the Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights, a one-day informal consultation to discuss the subject.

31. This consultation took place on 26 October 2005 and 55 States, as well as 16 non-governmental organizations and international or regional organizations, participated in the event. The discussion held indicated an interest in continuing to explore ways of further protecting cultural rights. However, views expressed on the establishment of a new mandate on cultural rights were divided. The conclusions of this one-day consultation can be found in document E/CN.4/2006/40.

## IV. Conclusions

32. **The Governments underline the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of their States. The information provided reaffirms Governments' commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms and recognition of respect for cultural diversity. Examples are given of constitutional provisions and national legislation that protect cultural diversity.**

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[3] The Fribourg Declaration can be found at www.unifr.ch/iiedh.

[4] The list of experts involved in the Fribourg Group is available at the end of the declaration.

[5] This analysis will soon be available online at www.unifr.ch/iiedh/driots-culturels/odc-pres.htm.

33. **Education is considered as a vital means of promoting tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and various types of curricula are being developed or implemented in many countries to that end. Intercultural programmes have also been designed in some States to promote and safeguard cultural expression.**

34. **Policies for the inclusion of minority and indigenous communities have been developed and measures to preserve and promote their cultural heritage and traditions introduced. Some cultural events are also organized to celebrate cultural diversity.**

35. **Furthermore, some States stressed that lack of intercultural dialogue, violations of cultural rights, discrimination and xenophobia often lead to violence and conflicts. International cooperation is usually seen as necessary to preserve cultural heritage and promote diversity.**

36. **Very few recommendations were made regarding action that might be taken at the international level to promote cultural diversity. The Government of Cyprus, however, recommends that UNESCO draw up a list of human rights instruments which set legal standards for States on the promotion and protection of human rights pertaining to cultural diversity. Member States and international and regional organizations could be invited to contribute to the preparation of this list. The list could then serve as a reference and form the basis for an evaluation of how human rights pertaining to cultural diversity are implemented in practice internationally and at the national level. The Government of Cyprus believes that the main focus should be on implementation of existing norms. The list should also include bilateral, cultural and technical cooperation agreements in the field and UNESCO could be tasked with preparing "model clauses" enhancing the promotion and protection of cultural diversity rights that could assist States in negotiating bilateral agreements. The Government of Cyprus also recommends that an annual treaty event could be organized by the United Nations in the near future on the theme of human rights and cultural diversity.**

37. **The Observatory of Diversity and Cultural Rights recommends that, in cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, action be taken to enquire further into ways to ensure mutual protection between cultural diversity and cultural rights, as cultural diversity can only be protected and promoted if human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected. The United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other intergovernmental organizations, should be associated with such a process.**